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SITUATION WILL REMAIN AS IT IS

Successor to Shah of Persia Continues Policy

Form of Government, Public Improvement and Commerce of the Monarchy.

HISTORY OF THE DYNASTY

Washington, Dec. 14.—General Morteza Khan, the Persian minister, tells that the political situation in his country will not be changed and that the reforms which are now going on will not be interrupted by the death of the shah, because his successor, Mohammed Ali Mirza, will follow his father's example and continue his policy. Persia, like Russia and Turkey, has been an absolute despotism. The shah, who is officially known as "shahinshah," has been an absolute ruler within his dominions and master of the lives and property of all his subjects. The entire revenue of the country has been his personal income, although it has been expected that he would pay the bills of the government. All the laws are based upon the precepts of the Koran and the accepted doctrines of Islam as laid down in the sacred book of the prophet and interpreted by the priests.

Nevertheless, yielding to the pressure of his ministers and other influential men, in January last the shah granted his people a share in the government and proclaimed a decree providing for a parliament which will frame a constitution for the kingdom.

There is a similar movement in Japan and in Russia, where the ministry is responsible to the sovereign and not to the representatives of the people, as in Great Britain, but it is scarcely possible that Persia will take so advanced a step. It will be a tremendous leap from an autocratic despotism to a constitutional form of government, and probably that is as much as the people are prepared for.

It is difficult even to imagine popular suffrage in Persia, but under the proclamation of Muzaffar-ed-Din, all Persians of the male sex able to read and write, between the ages of 30 and 70, who are not in the service of the state, who have never been convicted of a crime, are entitled to vote for members of the chamber of deputies. There are twelve assembly districts, each entitled to from six to nineteen representatives. Teheran, the province in which the capital is located, is a separate district and is entitled to sixty deputies, making a total of 156. In Teheran the people are so much farther advanced in education that the number of voters is nearly equal to one-half of those in all the other provinces combined.

The first election was held in July, by secret ballot, the votes being enclosed in sealed envelopes, and almost every citizen took advantage of the privilege. In every respect the election was a great success and a vindication of the ability of the people to share in the government.

The Present Shah.
Muzaffar-ed-Din, the present shah, was placed upon the throne May 1, 1896, by General Kosagowsky, a Russian soldier who was employed by his father, Nasr-ed-Din, to reorganize the army. There was an elder brother, Masud-mirza, who was not lawfully entitled to the throne, for his mother was not of royal birth. When he learned of his father's assassination Masud-mirza was gov-

ernor of half a dozen provinces in southern Persia, ruling with vigor and energy and showing himself to be a man of ability, honesty and progressive tendencies. Whatever may have been his earlier ambition, he accepted the situation without protest and telegraphed his younger brother, Muzaffar-ed-Din, assuring him of his loyalty and holding himself personally responsible for the support of his provinces.

The late shah, Nasr-ed-Din, who came to the throne in 1848 at the age of 17, was a wise and firm ruler, and, being of frugal disposition and business ability, he increased and hoarded his wealth after the fashion of ancient oriental sovereigns. Large amounts of specie, costly jewels, gold plate and other precious articles accumulated rapidly in the vaults of the palace until they represented a value of not less than \$20,000,000. Among his treasures was a famous diamond called the "Derya-i-Nur," of 186 karats, and the "Taj-i-Mah," of 146 karats, two of the finest stones in the world. But during the last ten years of his reign he abandoned his habits of economy and spent a large portion of this treasure, so that when Muzaffar came to the throne it had been reduced at least one-half. The latter imitated his father's extravagance. He was lavish in his munificence, and has not only treasures, but has created a large public debt, chiefly for the payment of his own personal expenses. The debt is held by the Russian Imperial bank, and is guaranteed by all the custom-house receipts, with the exception of those collected at two ports on the Persian Gulf.

Persia now has a national bank with local capital, which is the first step toward financial independence and public improvements. There are no railroads in the country and the jealousy of Russia, Germany, England and other foreign powers has been effective in preventing the government from granting concessions for their construction. The Russian government has a railway from Krasnovosk, on the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea, to Bokhara and Samarkand, which follows the Persian boundary lines for a considerable distance, and has made several surveys from this line into Teheran and the interior of Persia. The Germans have endeavored to obtain concessions and English syndicates have formed large plans, but neither of the powers will permit the subjects of the others to obtain the political and commercial advantages which a railway would carry with it.

There are two short railroads in Persia. One runs about six miles from Teheran to a suburban town, and the other connects one of the northern cities with the seacoast at about the same distance.

Russian steamers sail from Baku to all of the Persian ports upon the Caspian Sea and the shortest route to Teheran is by one of them to the port of Resht, and thence by carriage road a distance of about 250 miles around the base of Mount Demavend which is 19,400 feet high. General Morteza tells that automobiles are now running over this route and make the distance in fifty hours.

There is very little trade between the United States and Persia, the imports into this country from Persia being valued at only about \$50,000 last year. They consisted of carpets, rugs, silks, dried fruits and gum tragacanth, which is used in the manufacture of mullage, as a basis for medicines, and for other purposes. Our exports to Persia amounted to about half a million dollars, agricultural implements, hardware, furniture, and various articles of merchandise.

Following the Flag.

When our soldiers went to Cuba and the Philippines, health was the most important consideration. Willis T. Morgan, retired commissary sergeant U. S. A., of Rural Route 1, Concord, N. H., says: "I was two years in Cuba and two years in the Philippines, and being subject to colds, I took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, which kept me in perfect health. And now, in New Hampshire, we find it the best medicine in the world for coughs, colds, bronchial troubles and all lung diseases." Guaranteed at all druggists. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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Cures all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles; sold by J. H. Oehl-schlaeger, 601 Broadway, Dr. E. W. Hall, office 2926 Olive street, St. Louis, Mo.

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Never follows an injury dressed with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Its antiseptic and healing properties prevent blood poisoning. Chas. Oswald, merchant, of Rensselaersville, N. Y., writes: "It cured Seth Burch, of this place, of the ugliest sore on his neck I ever saw." Cures Cuts, Wounds, Burns and Sores. 25c at all druggists.

Subscribe for the Sun.

WOULD VIOLATE AN INJUNCTION

If He Thought It Was Not Right Said Mitchell

Asserts That the People Have Lost Confidence in the Judiciary of Country.

THE CIVIC FEDERATION MEETS

New York, Dec. 14.—"The people have lost their confidence in the judiciary because so many men have been imprisoned for doing things that they have a legal and constitutional right to do. If a judge—and I yield to no one in my regard for my country—were to enjoin me in something I believed I had a legal and moral right to do, I would violate that injunction. As an American I would preserve my liberty and that of my people even against federal judges."

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, made the foregoing declaration before the National Civic Federation, which began its fifth annual meeting today in the Park Avenue hotel. Among the 250 persons present were Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius N. Bliss, Oscar S. Straus, Nicholas Murray Butler, Arch Bishop Ireland, Bishop Potter, ex-Governor David R. Francis, Henry Phipps, Clarence H. Mackay, Samuel Gompers, the Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, Clark Howell and James Speyer.

No Confidence in Judiciary.

"Evils of the Federal Injunction" was the theme of Mr. Mitchell's speech. He said in part:

"It has been our proud boast that no citizen might be deprived of his liberties except by a jury of his peers. By the injunction this feeling of security has largely disappeared and the American workingman has come to feel that his liberty is jeopardized. It is of little consequence to him what causes may be cited by lawyers; it is just a question of everyday labor with him. The working man does not want his case submitted to the federal judge. I do not share entirely in his lack of confidence. But that very fear of partiality of the federal judge is a matter of grave concern to the entire people of the country.

"It is very important that the people have confidence in the judiciary. That they have lost it is not to be gainsaid. Nor has this confidence been lost without justification.

"We hold that injunctions shall not be issued when there is adequate remedy at law; that a man shall not be sent to prison except by his peers if this is so, the courts have gone very far in the exercise of federal power. We must seek to avoid the evils of the federal injunction."

Mr. Mitchell was vigorously applauded at the end of his speech.

Favors Inheritance Tax.

The meeting was called to order by August Belmont, president of the federation. In his opening address Mr. Belmont urged the appointment of a committee to investigate the problems growing out of the accumulation of great fortunes.

Deadly Serpent Bites.

Are as common in India as are stomach and liver disorders with us. For the latter however there is a sure remedy: Electric Bitters; the great restorative medicine, of which S. A. Brown, of Bennettsville, S. C., says: "They restored my wife to perfect health, after years of suffering with dyspepsia and a chronically torpid liver." Electric Bitters cure chills and fever, malaria, biliousness, lame back, kidney troubles and bladder disorders. Sold on guarantee by all druggists. Price 50c.

It's better for a girl to have a fortune than a titled husband, because if she has one she can get the other with it if she insists on it.

An Alarming Situation

Frequently results from neglect of clogged bowels and torpid liver, until constipation becomes chronic. This condition is unknown to those who use Dr. King's New Life Pills; the best and gentlest regulators of Stomach and Bowels. Guaranteed by all druggists. Price 25c.

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